

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 25 and 27 are amended, and claim 28 is added. Accordingly, claims 1-28 are pending in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative at the personal interview conducted January 26, 2005. The substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks which constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

I. Rejection Over Andleigh and Brooks

The Office Action rejects claims 1-13, 15-20, 22 and 24-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over WO 99/34307 to Andleigh et al. (hereinafter "Andleigh"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,825,869 to Brooks. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Andleigh nor Brooks discloses or suggests:

1. a document feature extraction part that extracts a plurality of documents generated by a same operator from said document management part, as recited in claims 1 and 25;
2. a task management part that analyzes job order relations, including authority levels of responsible operators, based on electronic transmitted/received among operators, as recited in claims 5 and 26; or
3. a conversation management part that collects conversation information among operators by utilizing electronic data, as recited in claims 7 and 27.

Applicants submit that the claim amendments serve to clarify the claims by correcting minor informalities, and not to distinguish over any applied references. Applicants therefore submit that the claim amendments do not narrow the claims.

A. Claims 1 and 25

As discussed during the personal interview, Andleigh discloses a system and method for analyzing and extracting words and word groups from an electronic document, and for storing the extracted words and word groups into predefined fields or tables in a target database. The entire disclosure of Andleigh is directed to processing of individual documents, for example, a resume or a patent document (see page 5, lines 4-10). While the resume discussed in Andleigh may be generated by one operator, no additional documents identified as being generated by a same operator are disclosed in Andleigh, and no "plurality of documents generated by a same operator" are extracted by a document feature extraction part.

The Office Action asserts that Andleigh discloses "a document feature extraction part the extracts features of the respective documents" on page 4, lines 27-29. Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action is misquoting the claim. Claim 1 recites "a document feature extraction part that extracts a plurality of documents authored by a same operator," not "extracts features of the respective documents." As argued above, and as agreed to during the personal interview, nowhere does Andleigh disclose or suggest this feature, as Andleigh deals exclusively with analyzing individual documents, and the documents are not identified as being authored by a same operator.

Accordingly, as agreed to during the personal interview, Andleigh does not disclose each and every feature recited in claims 1 and 25 of "a document feature extraction part that extracts a plurality of documents regarding a project generated by a same operator from said document management part." Brooks does not remedy the deficiency of Andleigh with respect to claims 1 and 25.

B. Claims 5 and 26

The Office Action asserts that Andleigh teaches a task management part that analyzes job order relations on page 1, line 24. However, Applicants submit that none of the listed documents, resumes, performance appraisals and design documents, publications, books, and patent documents contain "job order relations, including authority levels of responsible operators," as recited in claims 5 and 26.

Accordingly, as agreed to during the personal interview, Andleigh does not disclose "a task management part that analyzes job order relations, including authority levels of responsible operators," as recited in claims 5 and 26. Brooks does not remedy the deficiency of Andleigh with respect to claims 5 and 26.

C. Claims 7 and 27

The Office Action admits that Andleigh does not teach conversation management, and relies on Brooks to supply the missing subject matter. The Office Action asserts that Brooks teaches a conversation management part that manages conversations among the operators by utilizing electronic data in col. 4, lines 51-57. However, nowhere in this cited passage are the conversations managed by utilizing electronic data.

In view of the above, and as agreed to during the personal interview, neither Andleigh nor Brooks discloses either alone or in combination the subject matter recited in independent claims 1, 5, 7 and 25-27. Claims 2-4, 8-13, 15-20, 22 and 24 depend from claim 1, and claim 6 depends from claim 5. Accordingly, claims 2-4, 6, 8-13, 15-20, 22 and 24 are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 5, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-13, 15-20, 22 and 24-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

II. Rejection Over Andleigh, Brooks and Machin

The Office Action rejects claims 14, 21 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Andleigh in view of Brooks and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,038,544 to Machin et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action admits that neither Andleigh nor Brooks teach generating graphs, recording voice conversations or allowing operators to input comments, but that Machin teaches an operator performance evaluation system and method that rates and ranks operators. The Office Action asserts that Machin also "plots performance data on a graph, allows operators to input additional information as remarks, and also receives and records input conversation as voice data and digital format." However, Applicants respectfully submit that Machin does not extract "a plurality of documents generated by a same operator," as recited in claim 1, and therefore Machin does not remedy this deficiency of Andleigh and Brooks with respect to claim 1.

Claims 14, 21 and 23 depend from claim 1, and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 14, 21 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

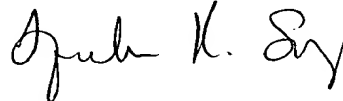
During the personal interview, Examiner Diaz suggested that amending claim 1 to recite a feature tying the results of the feature extraction to a determination of which operator to select for a given task, may place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully submit that such a feature is recited presently in claim 12, which recites "an optimum operator selection part that selects optimum operators based on information extracted by said job feature extraction part."

Examiner Diaz also suggested that the phrase "generated by a same operator" be amended to "authored by a same operator," to clarify that the operator is the creator of the document. However, in view of the lack of prior art disclosing the features of current claim 1, this claim language is recited in dependent claim 28.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-28 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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